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LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA

Urbana is and always has been a socially democratic community. It has never recognized any individual as its "first citizen." Each individual, in his day and time, made his contribution to the development, progress and prosperity of the community as a whole, for which we are and ever will be indebted. This brochure presents the photographs of only a few of the multitude of men and the many institutions of fifty or more years ago that laid and built upon the foundation of the Urbana community.

None of these men are now living, but their works and deeds live after them and will be long remembered. Only one of the buildings shown in the photographs yet stands.

For the comforts and blessings enjoyed by the youth of today, too many of these young people do not realize their obligation to the men of former generations. It is hoped this brochure will serve as a reminder to the youth of this and succeeding generations, that the blessings they enjoy did not come by mere accident, or as a matter of course, but are the result of the thought, the labor, the courage, the hardships, and the vision of Urbana's pioneers. It is hoped that thus it may serve a useful purpose.

HALF CENTURY CLUB

of

Urbana, Illinois

— 1947 —

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President Henry I. Green
Vice President Irwin I. Chase
Secretary-Treasurer Miss Mae Buchanan

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Flora M. Sims, Chairman
Dr. C. C. Busch
Paul G. Busey
Mrs. L. L. Corrie
Miss Minnie Jaques
John W. Stipes
Mrs. Guy A. Tawney

BANQUET COMMITTEE

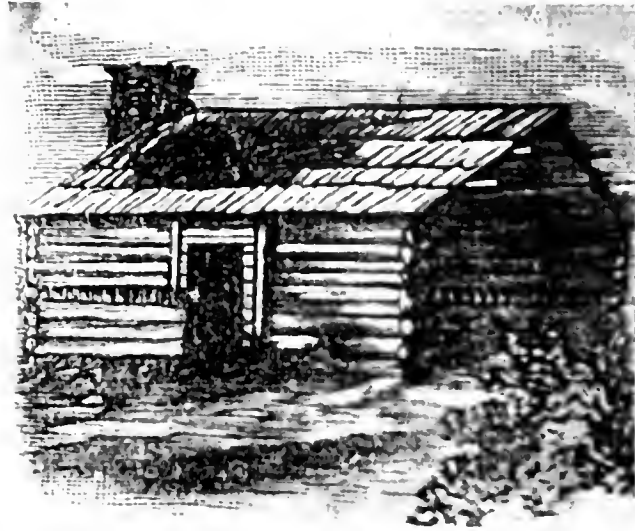
Mrs. Katherine Wheeler, Chairman
Miss Marian Barr
Mrs. Guy Fisher
Mrs. Sylvia Hadden
Enos L. Phillips
Miss Addie Reese
Mrs. Lillian Throckmorton Spalding

MUSIC COMMITTEE

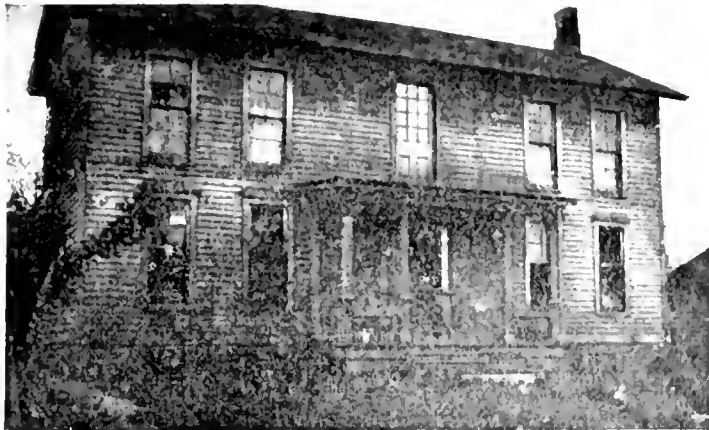
Julius Cohen, Chairman
Mayor George F. Hurd
William E. Sim

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

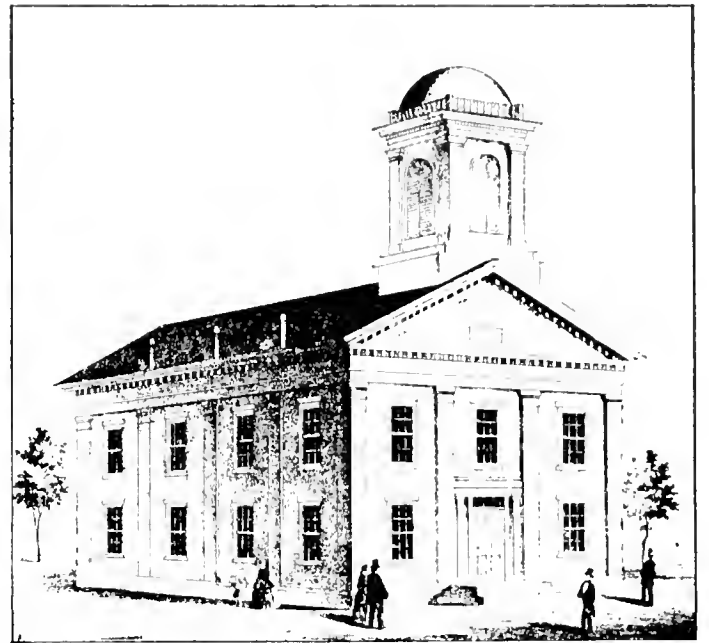
Chancy Finfrock, Chairman
Isaac Gordon
Miss Minnie Jaques
C. A. Kiler
Mrs. Mae Nicolaus



1832 First school house built in Urbana. The windows were many and small.
Greased paper was used instead of window glass.
Asahel Bruer, teacher.

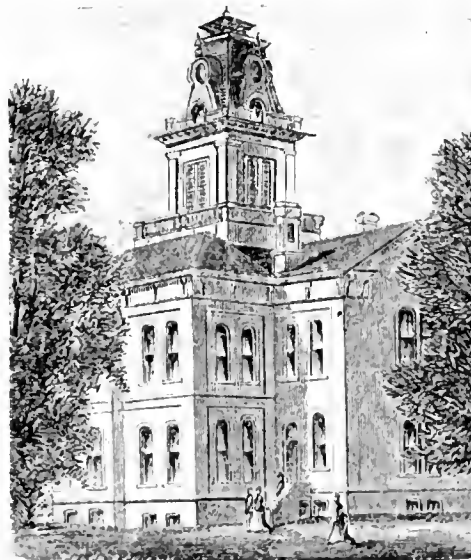


1841 — The first hotel was built and owned by a Mr. Bruer, called the Urbana House, sometimes called the Champaign House. The upper left-hand room always occupied by Mr. Lincoln while attending court.



URBANA SEMINARY

Located on site of present Leal School (Built in 1855)



Old High School Building
Built in 1871

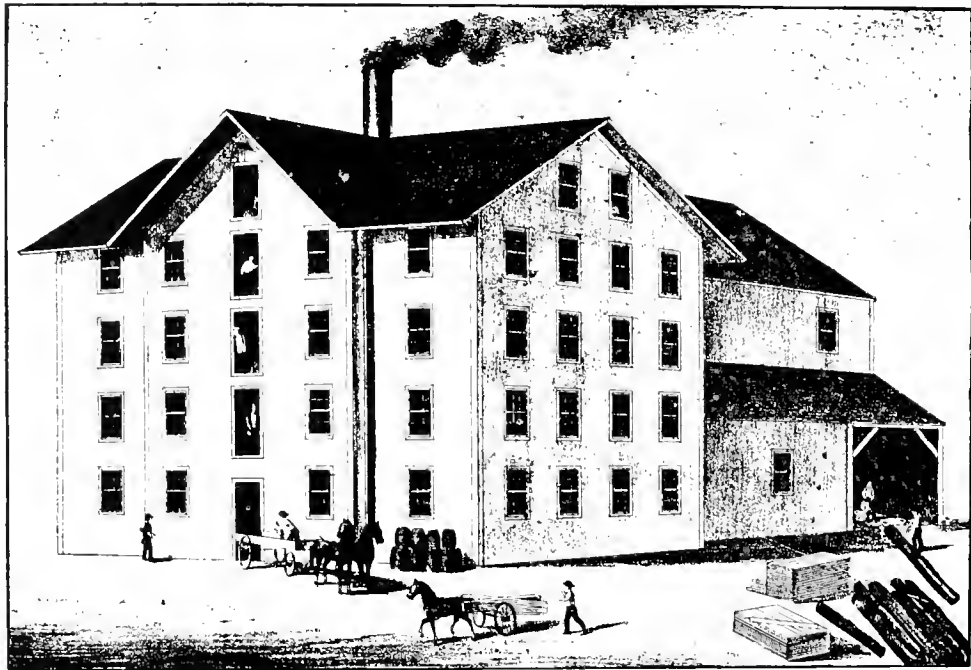
Same location as Urbana Seminary
between California, Oregon, Birch and
Broad (now Cedar) Streets.



BANK BUILDINGS.

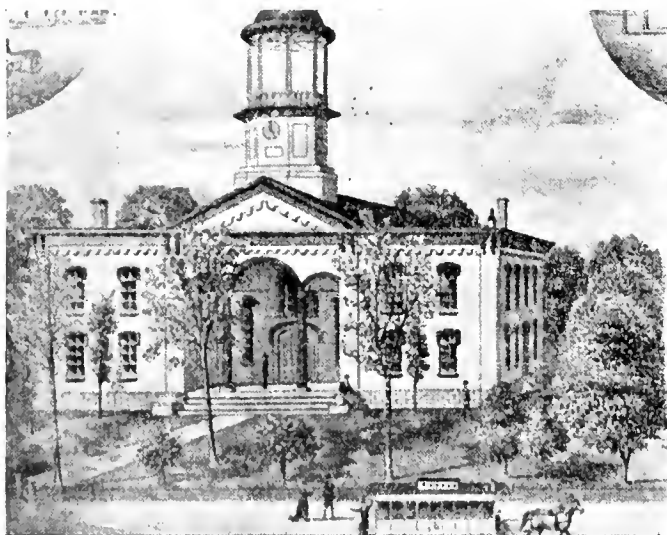
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS. URBANA

Main Street, Urbana, in 1860

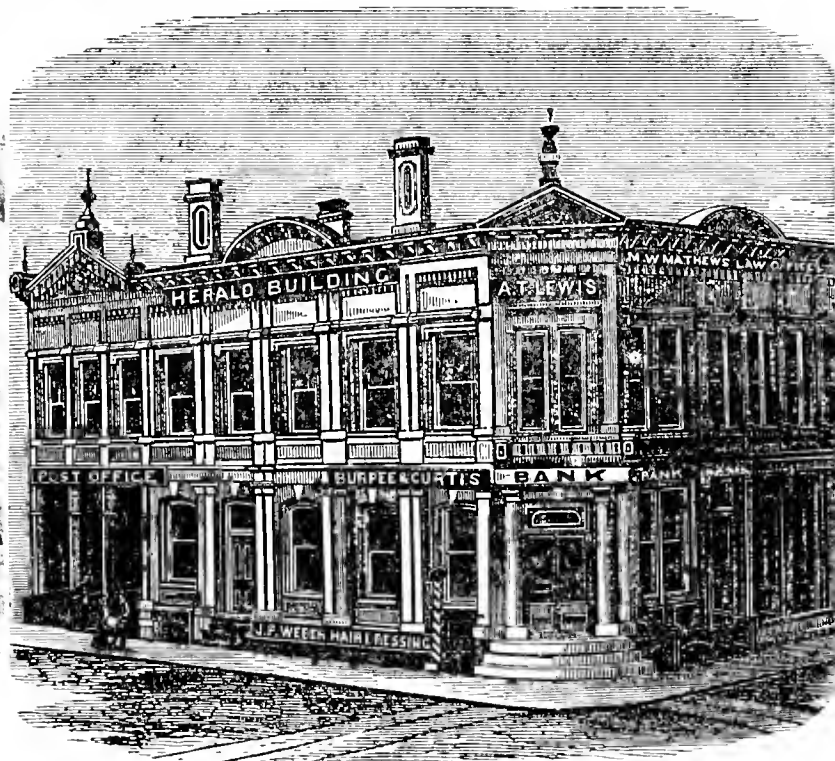


PARKS FLOURING & SAW MILL.

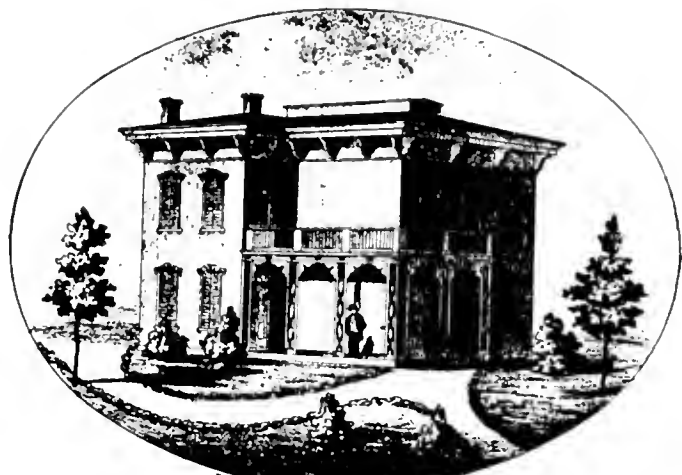
Located on the east side of North Race Street, just south of present Wabash Railroad tracks



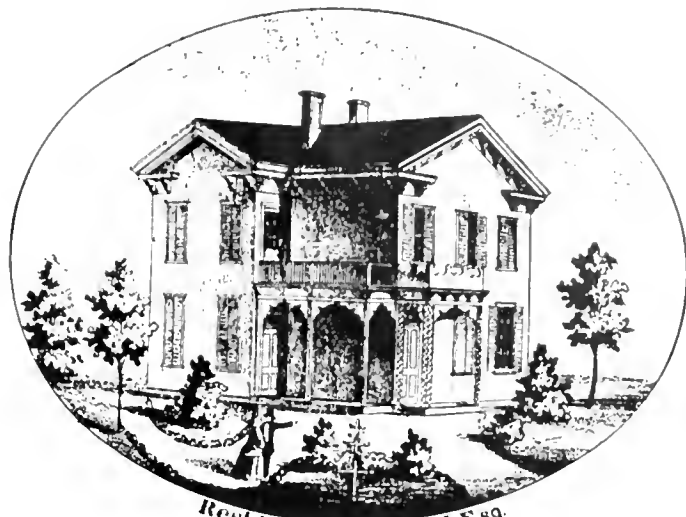
Third Courthouse
Built in 1856 at a cost of \$40,000



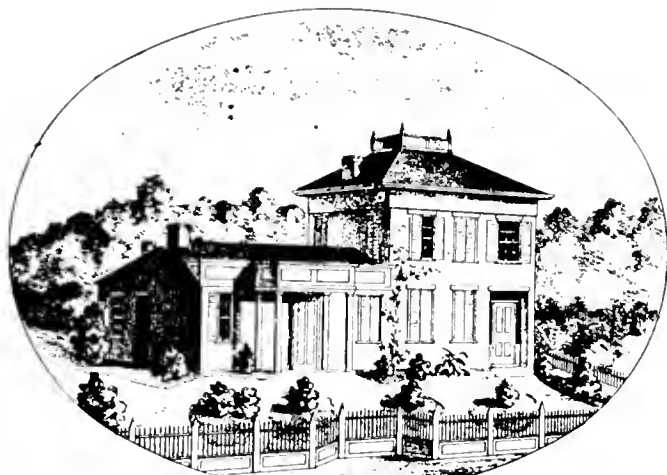
Corner of Main and Market (now Broadway)



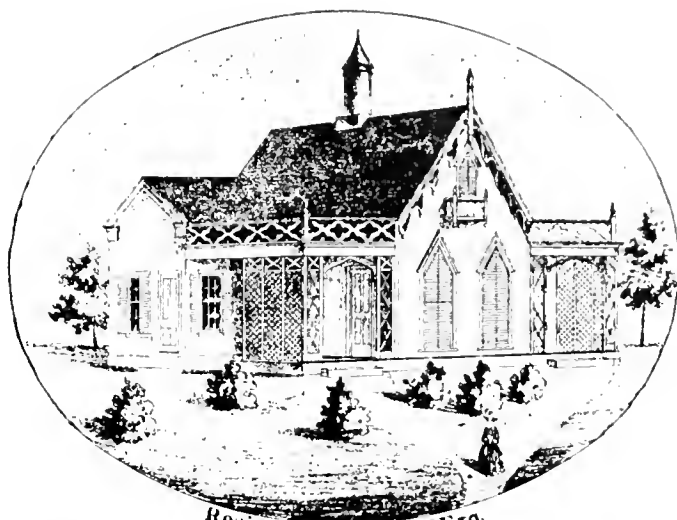
Residence of JUDGE AYER.
207 West Elm Street



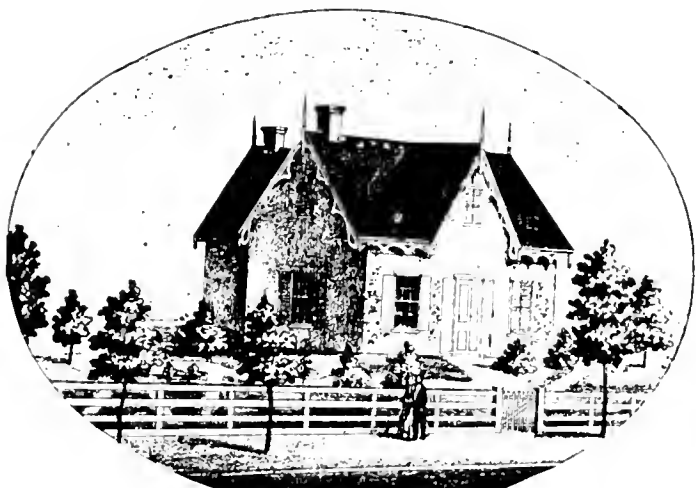
Residence of J. W. SIM Esq.
603 West Green Street



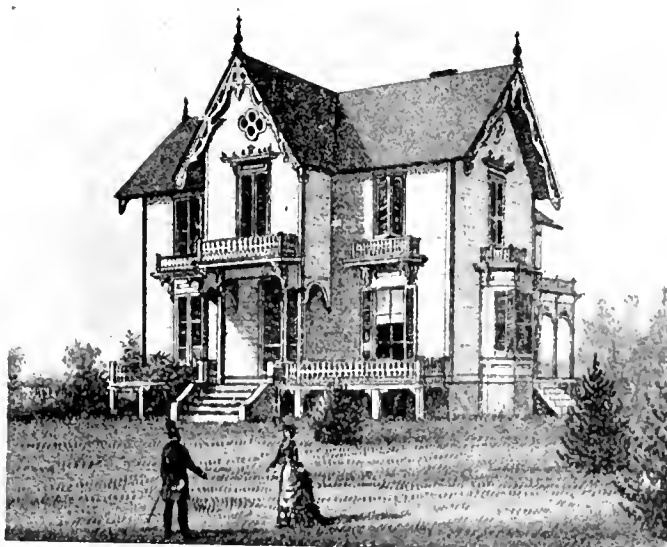
Res SAMUEL WATERS Esq.
304 West Ater Street



Residence of S. J. TOY Esq.
Elm Street Corner McCullough (formerly North Street)



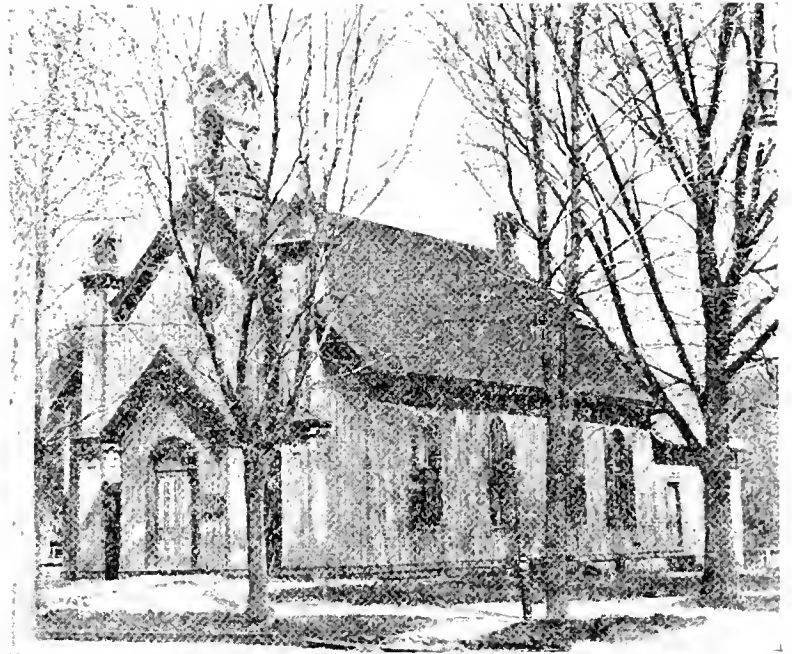
Residence of Dr. HUNT.
404 West Elm Street



Residence of Prof. T. J. Burrill, 1212 W. Green Street



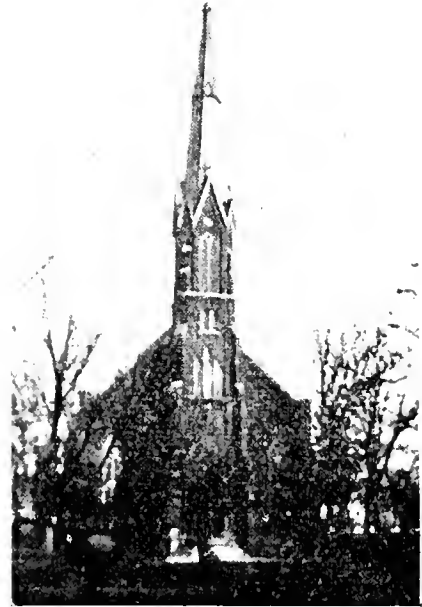
Baptist Church
Built in 1856



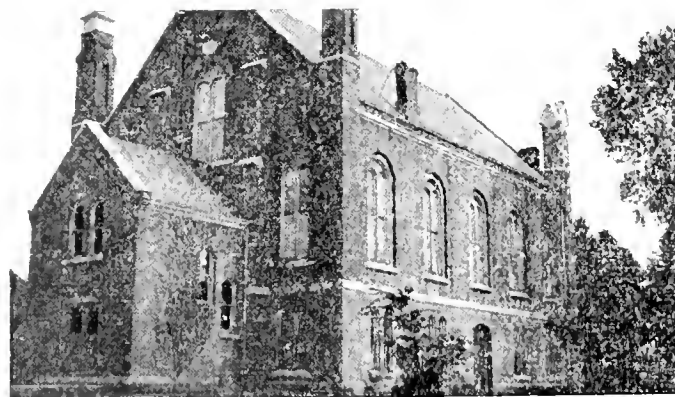
Presbyterian Church
Built in 1867



Methodist Church
Built in 1856.



St. Mary's Church
Built in 1888



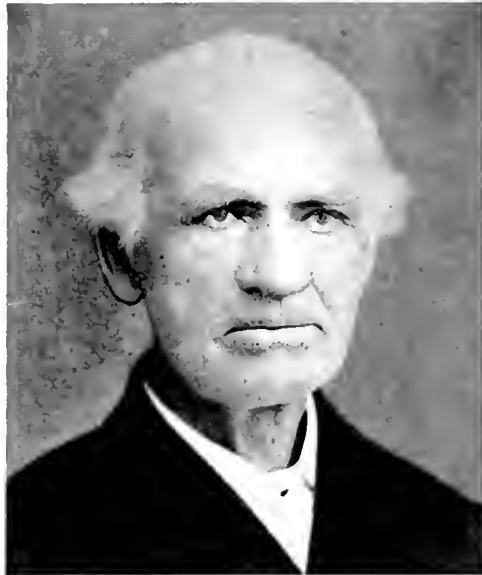
Universalist Church
Built in 1870



James T. Roe
1793 — 1866



Thomson R. Webber
1807 — 1881



John Gere
1811 — 1896



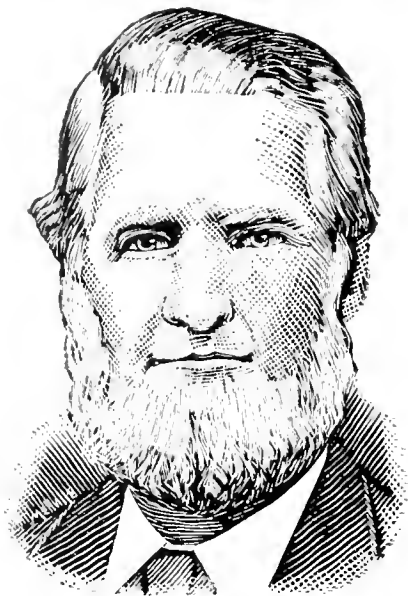
William D. Somers
1812 — 1901



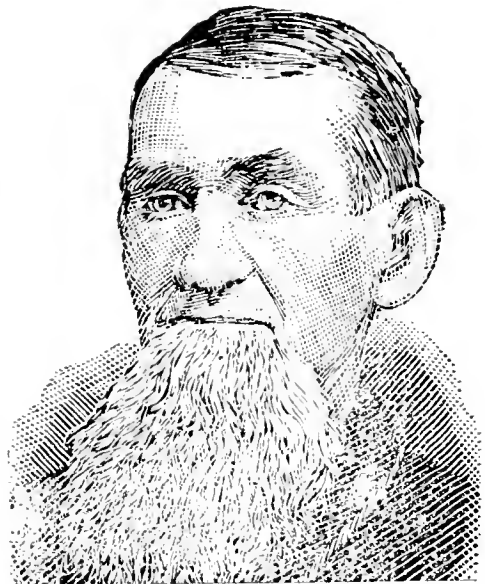
William Park
1812 — 1889



Archibald Campbell
1812 — 1877
First Mayor of Urbana



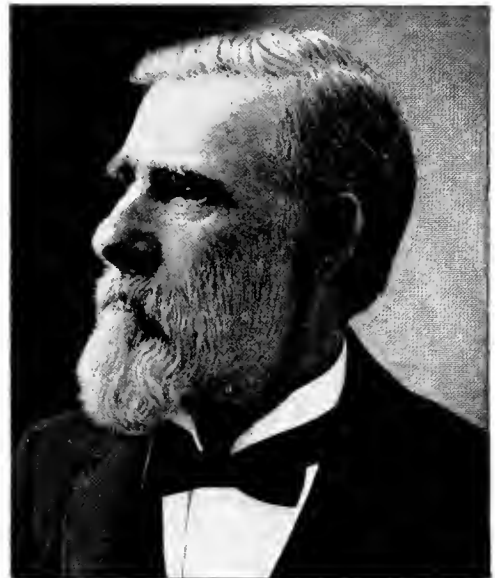
Rev. G. W. Riley
1813 — 1881



John T. Phillips
1818 — 1886



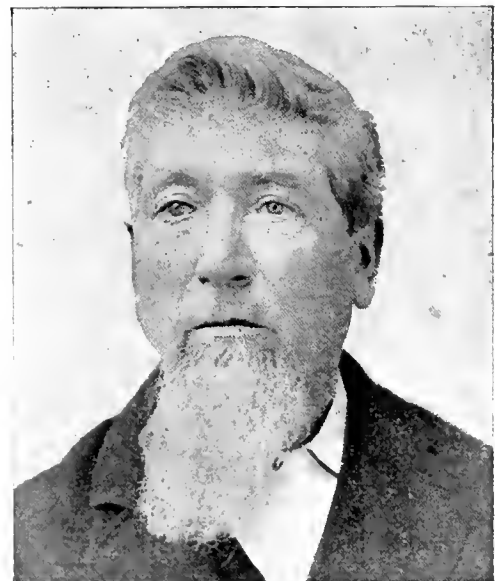
Allen McClain
1823 — 1899



Simeon H. Busey
1824 — 1901



J. S. Busey
1824 — 1888



Alex Spence
1825 — 1898



T. S. Hubbard
1825 — 1902



William Sim
1825 — 1888



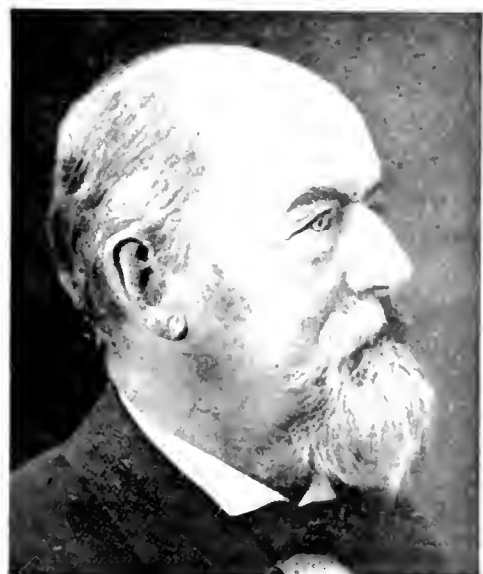
J. C. Sheldon
1827 — 1905



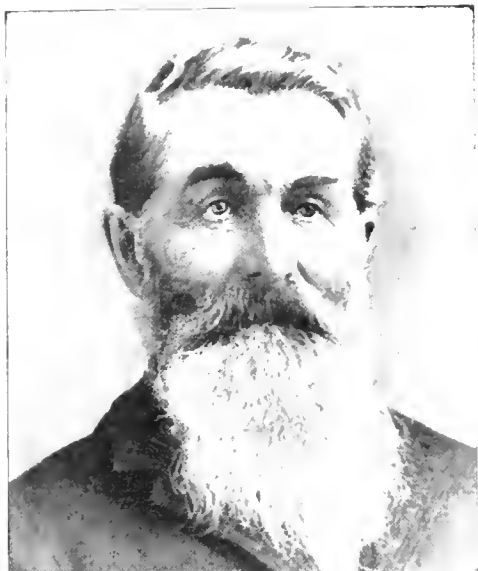
A. M. Ayers
1828 — 1902



T. R. Leal
1829 — 1903



Judge J. O. Cunningham
1830 — 1917



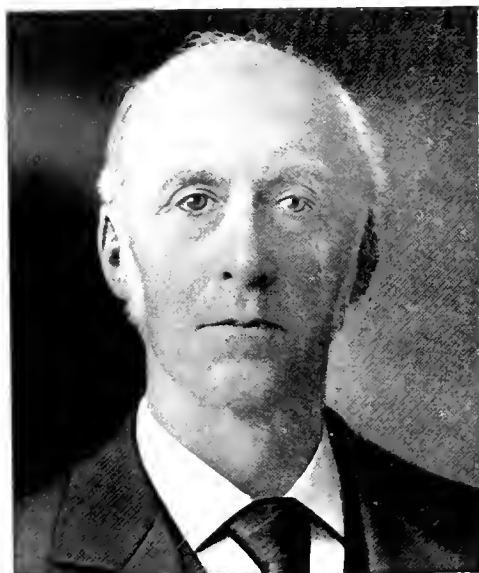
A. M. Fauley
1830 — 1912



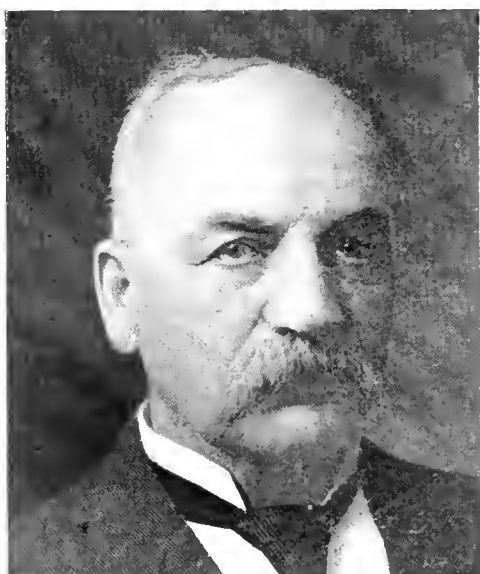
Judge J. W. Sim
1831 — 1890



Silas F. White
1851 — 1906



B. F. Boggs
1832 — 1903



George Besore
1832 — 1900

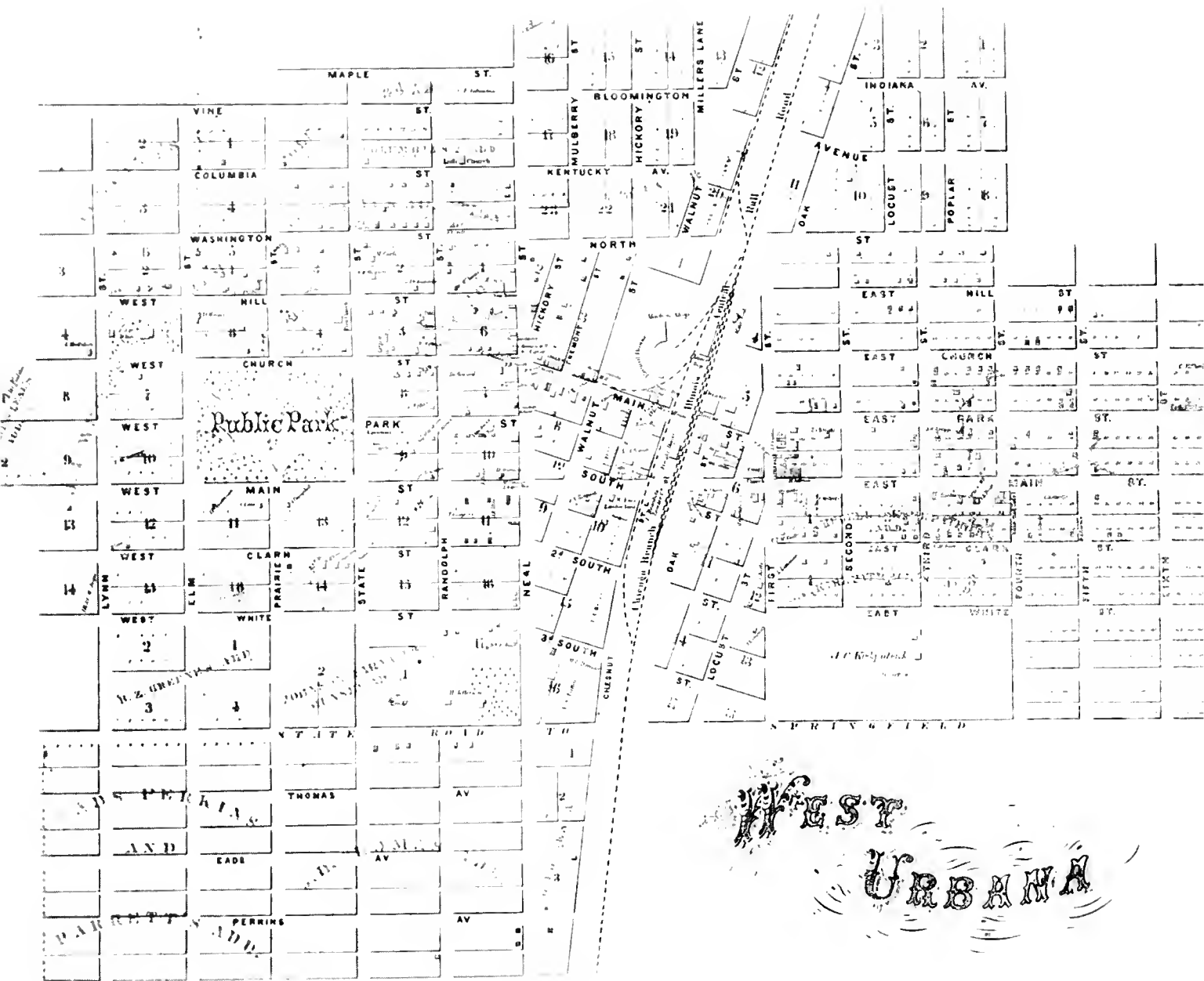


Dr. M. Lindley
1833 — 1921

Champaign County Illinois
June the 20th 1838
G. Lyne to donate to the county
aforesaid A certain tract
of ground in section 8 and
section 19. Containing 20
Acres To be selected on the
Line dividing sd. sections
sd. tract to be not ~~more~~ than
~~thirty~~ five rods in length and
The balance in width ~~the~~ north
and south with the reserve
of all the rails on sd tract
Also all the buildings contained
In sd location Isaac Bruce

I & Mella do hereby agree to give for the above
purpose 11 acres lying on the Eastern line of a
donation given by S. Bussey reserving the privilege
of selecting our acre in any place not interfering
with any survey which will be necessary in the
laying out of the Town

I propose to grant three acres
of land to the within
Donation to be selected by
the County Board within
forty days of the ^{year} 1880
of Bussey's donation for the
purpose of a Building ground
and public meeting house
H. W. Bussey



PAIR BOUND



THE CITY OF URBANA

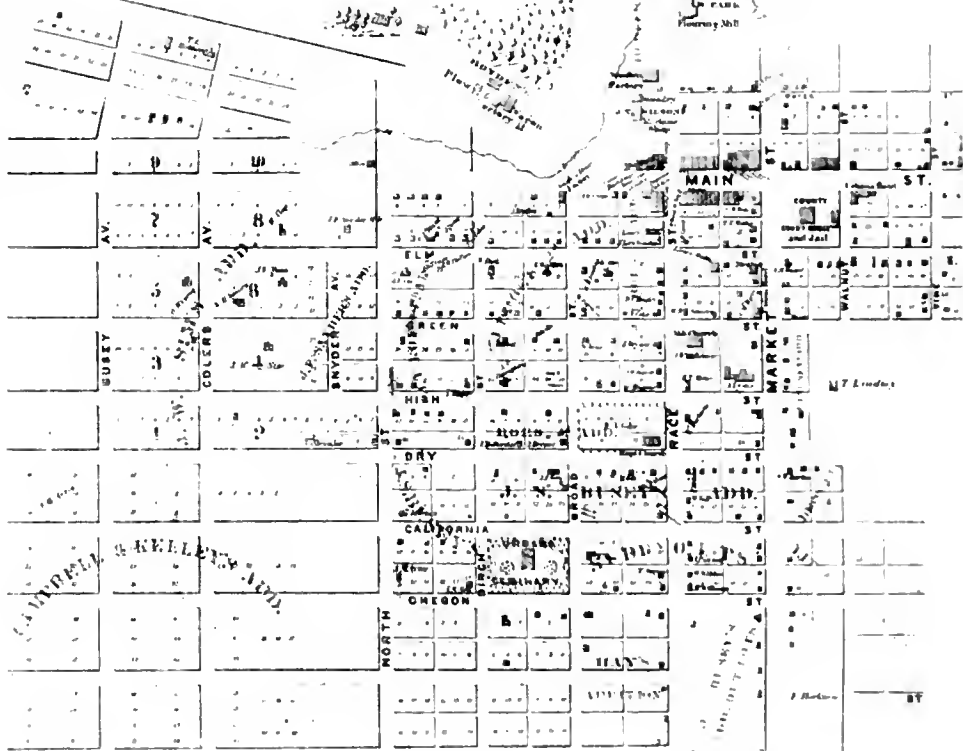
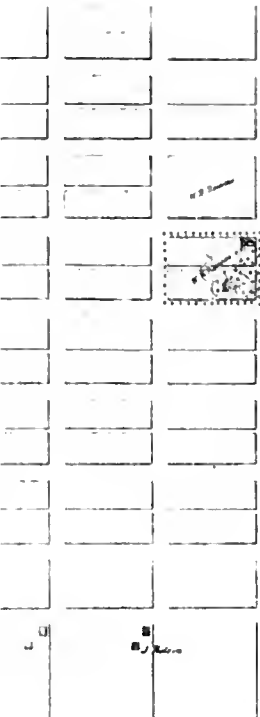
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

State of Illinois

By Alexander Beaman

Scale, 264 feet to the inch.

A.D. 1860



URBANA

A thriving and beautiful city in the center of Champaign County and in the midst of a vast territory of land unsurpassed in fertility adjacent to the Big Grove which contains 12,000 acres of first class timber.

It also has a beautiful stream of water meandering through its center affording all facilities for manufacturing to which use it is largely appropriated. It is the County seat and where the business of the County mainly centres.

WEST URBANA

situated on both sides of the Illinois Central Rail Road, the corporate limits of which extend to those of Urbana. It is also a large and flourishing town rapidly increasing in all that goes to make an extensive city in a few years.

The two places contain a population of about 6,000 inhabitants.

Monday Jan'y 13th 1868

100	Capital St		
10	Paidup Capital		
"	S. H. Busey	4000	
"	S. T. Busey	3000	
"	W. W. Earheart	4000	11,000

Monday Jan'y 13th 1868

,	S. H. Busey	1750
,	A. Genet	500
,	Interest	6
,	Discount	35
,	Smith & At BK. At	20
,	Jos. Rigg	1800
,	E. C. Hurd	1800
,	Wm. M. Goodwin	1400
,	Park & Rogers	794
,	R. A. Sutton	408
,	J. G. Hurd	260
,	Fred. Embilings	500
,	Exchange	25
,	S. H. Busey	725
,	J. S. Busey	100
		9555.60

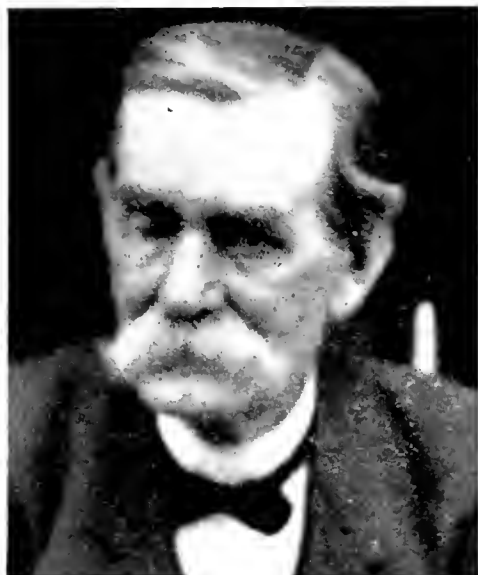
Opening Entries of
Busey Bros. & Co.,
now Busey First National Bank
Capital and first day's deposits.
13th "a lucky date"



F. M. Snyder
1834 — 1923



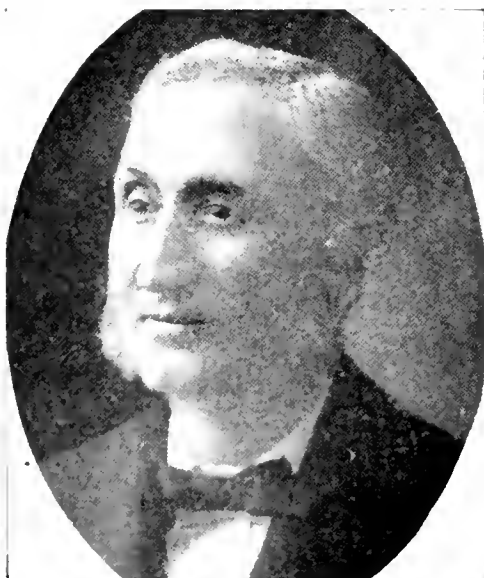
P. W. Richards
1835 — 1899



Gen. Samuel T. Buscy
1835 — 1909



William B. Webber
1836 — 1916



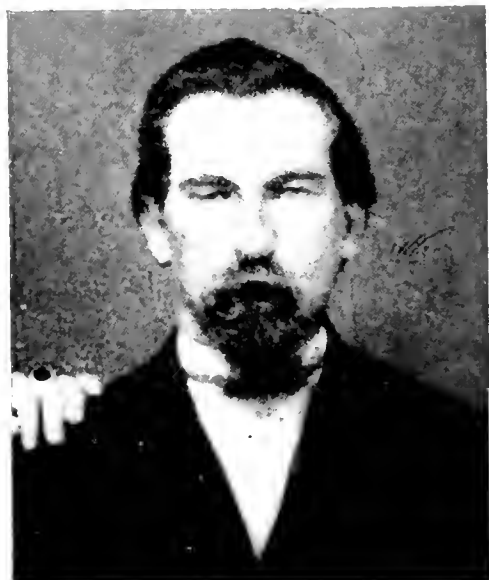
Morris Lowenstern
1836 — 1916



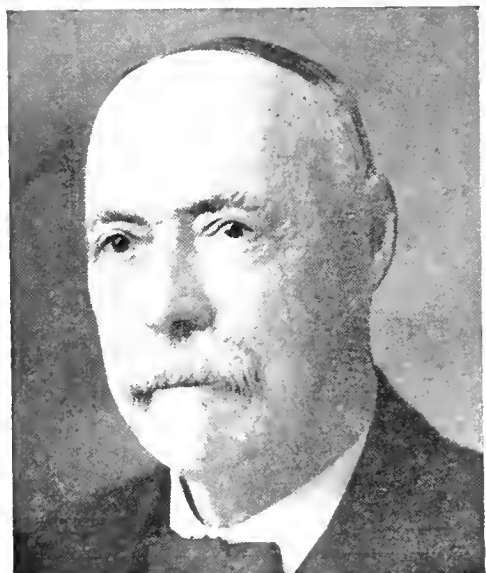
Jonas Bing
1836 — 1913



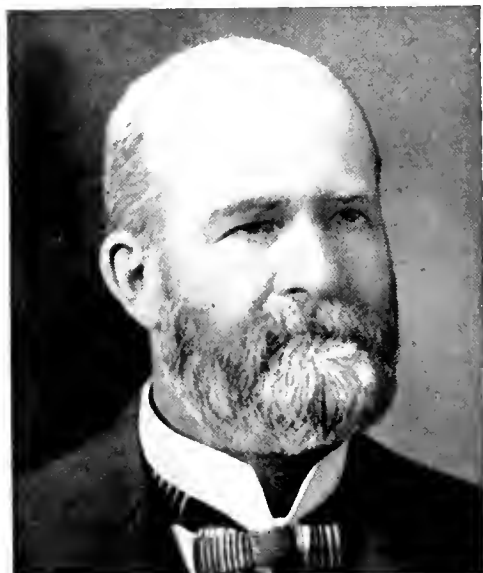
Frank G. Jaques
1839 — 1896



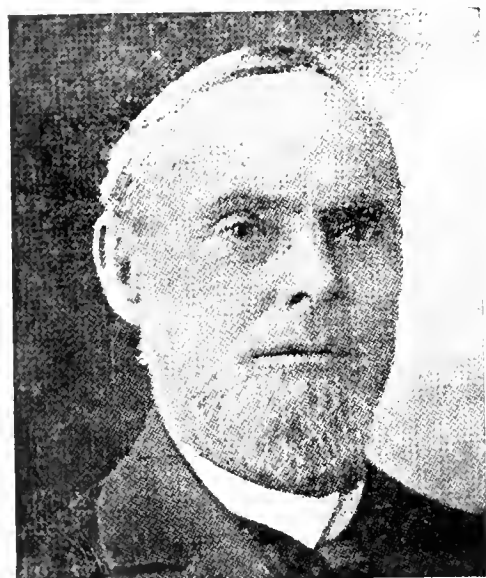
William Kiler
1839 — 1877



John W. Shuck
1839 — 1925



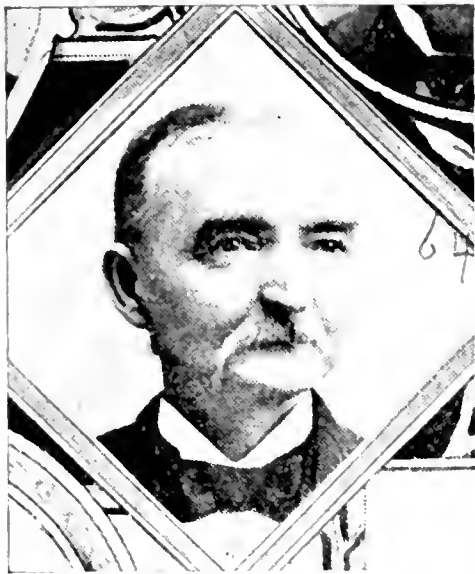
Prof. T. J. Burrill
1839 — 1916



Rev. W. H. Stedman
1840 — 1923



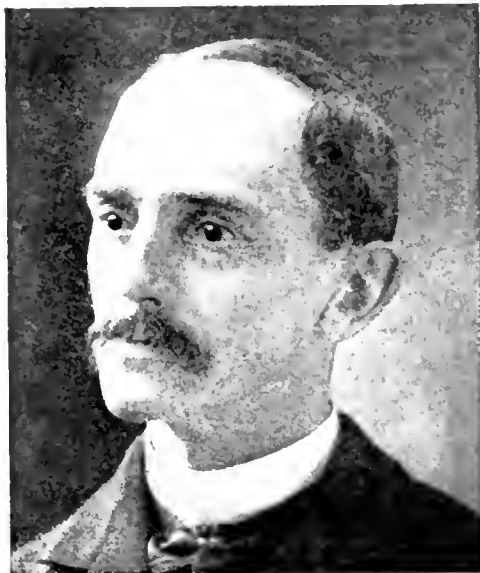
J. S. Hall
1840 — 1928



R. A. Webber
1840 — 1905



Samuel C. Fox
1841 — 1909



L. A. McLean
1843 — 1916



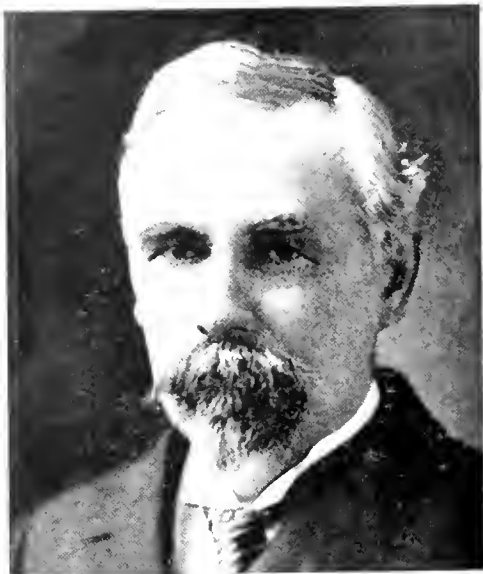
James S. McCullough
1843 — 1913



L. G. Hubbard
1844 — 1927



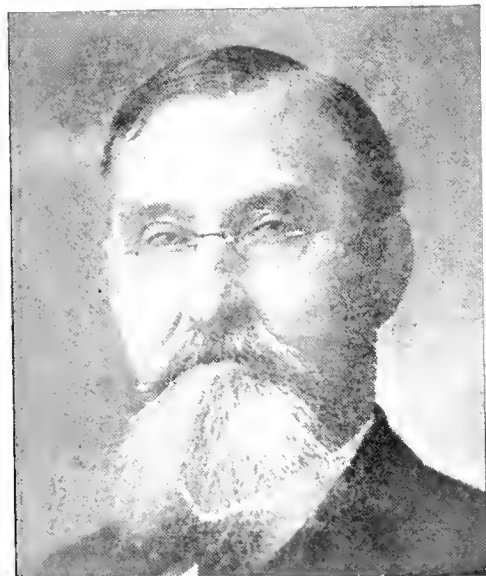
N. A. Riley
1844 — 1931



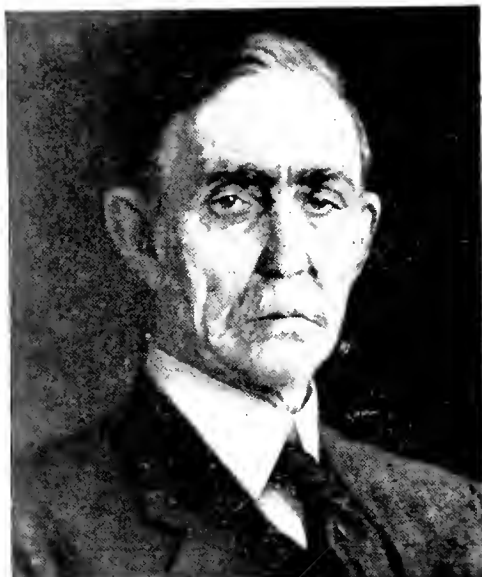
Judge Francis M. Wright
1844 — 1917



V. W. Shuck
1846 — 1926



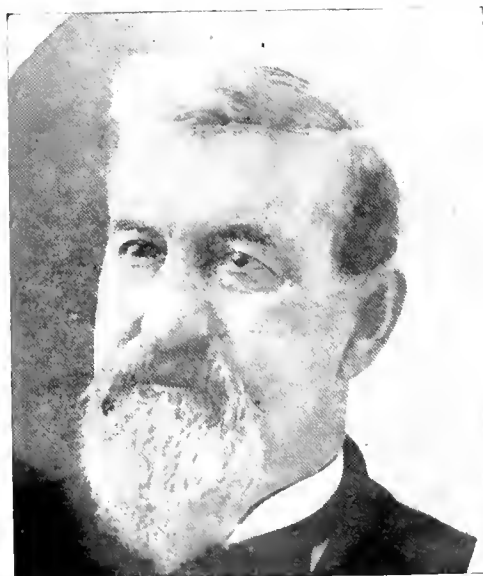
J. G. Oldham
1846 — 1925



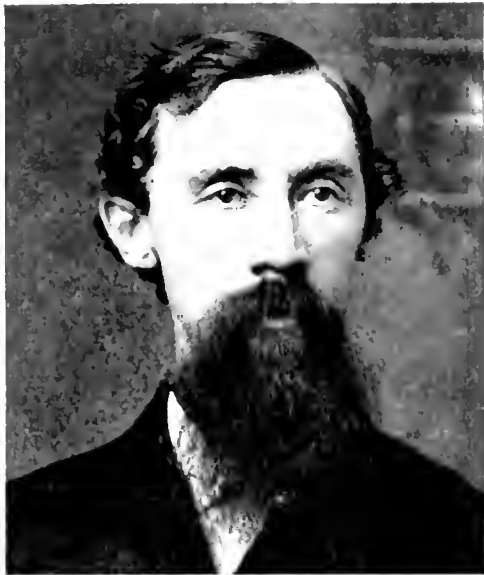
Francis M. Green
1846 — 1926



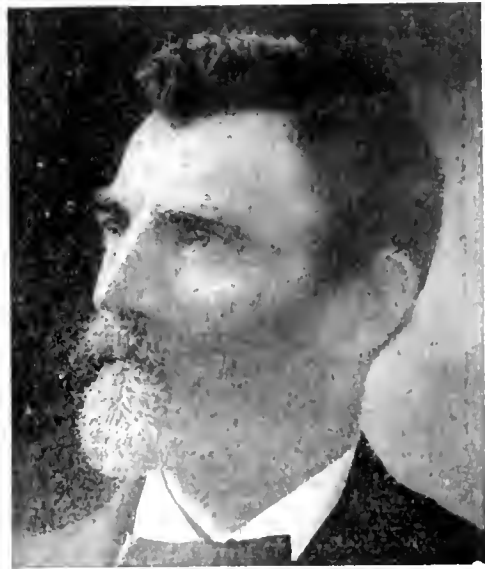
M. W. Mathews
1846 — 1892



Dr. J. M. Bartholow
1847 — 1917



J. W. Hays
1848 — 1924



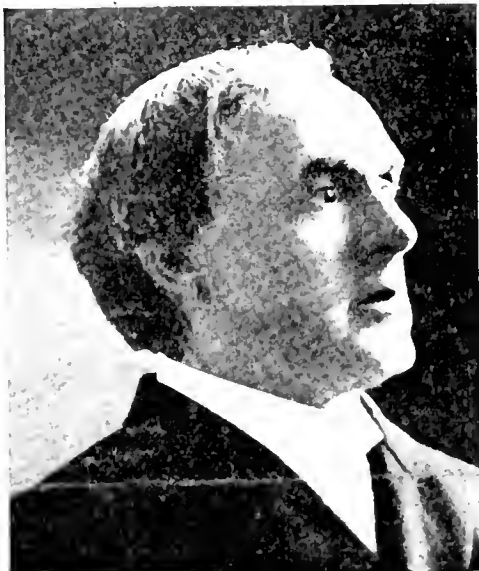
John Ross
1849 — 1917



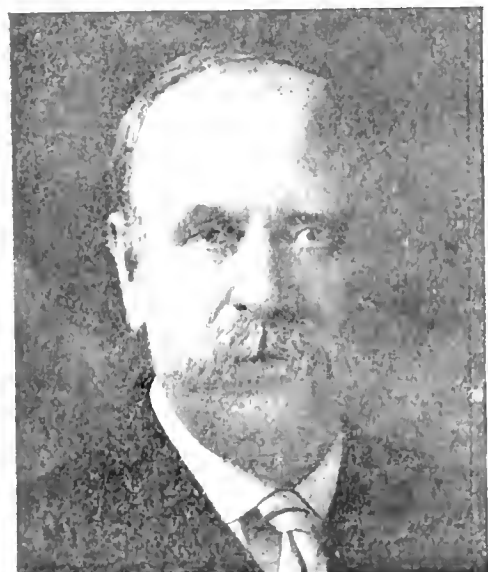
Nat H. Cohen
1850 — 1928



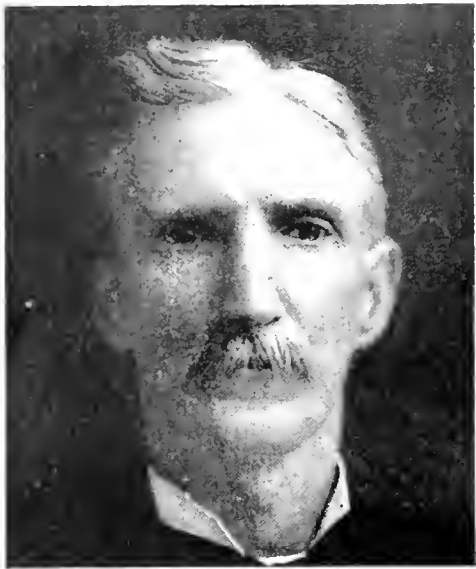
Milton S. Parks
1851 — 1922



Bishop Robt. McIntyre
1851 — 1914



E. M. Knowlton
1852 — 1920



John J. Rea
1852 — 1941



Rev. George McNutt
1853 — 1938



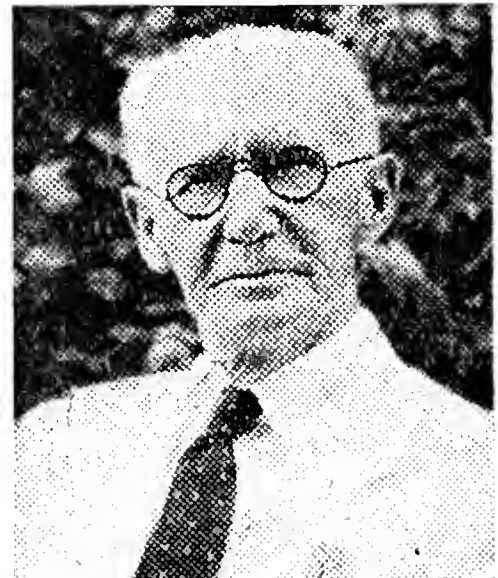
M. W. Busey
1854 — 1932



Dr. James E. White
1855 — 1910



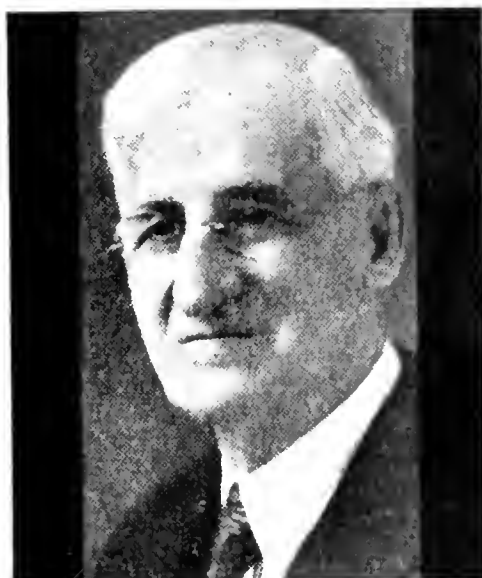
Gus T. Freeman
1855 — 1937



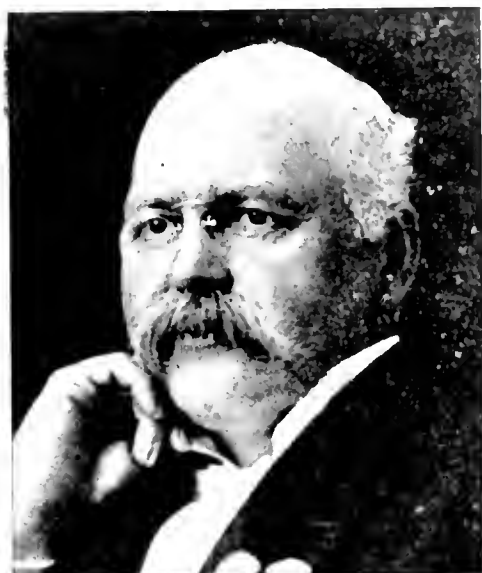
Rev. C. B. Taylor
1855 — 1946



Dr. A. M. Lindley
1856 - - 1932



Dr. F. O. Sale
1856 - - 1941



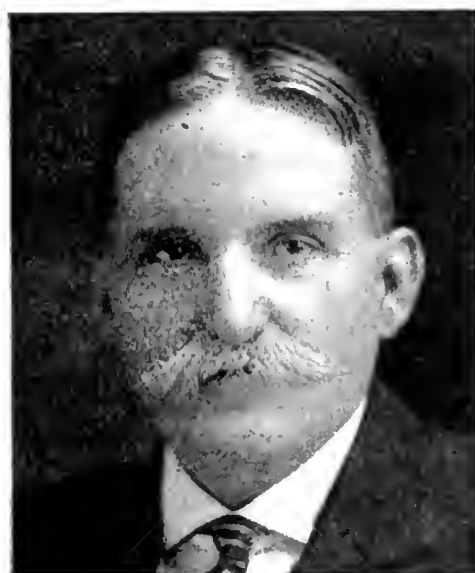
Dr. W. F. Burres
1857 — 1937



Carl Busch
1857 — 1896



Frank L. Bills
1857 - 1931



Enos H. Renner
1858 - - 1947



Cyrus N. Clark
1860 — 1939



George W. Busey
1861 — 1944



Spencer E. Huff
1862 — 1940



George M. Bennett
1864 — 1935

1861. This building erected and called "The Urbana and Champaign Institute Building;" it stood at the North end of what is now Illinois Field, faced University Avenue. The main part of the structure was 125 feet front, 40 feet in depth and five stories high. It contained 90 dormitories, each ten by fifteen feet, and accommodations for 800 students.

October 5, 1866. Champaign and Urbana proposed to purchase the eight acres on which this building stood at a cost of \$30,000.00 and use \$70,000.00 more to buy land to secure the location of the proposed Illinois Industrial University over the other contestants—Bloomington, Jacksonville, and other towns which had made offers.

February 28, 1867. The Fuller Bill, which provided for the location of the Illinois Industrial University in Urbana, was approved by the Legislature. It opened with seventy-seven students, thirteen professors, four assistants and J. M. Gregory, L. L. D., as Regent.



1829 — The first window glass was brought to Champaign County.

1832 — Only two schoolhouses then in Champaign County.

1833 — First court was held in Urbana, in an old log stable.

1833 — First license to sell goods and merchandise here was granted to J. H. Alexander of Urbana. The goods were brought from Philadelphia by railroad, boat, ox-cart and wagon.

1833 — Champaign County was created. John F. Richardson of Clark County, James P. Jones of Coles County, and Stephen Shelleday of Edgar County, were appointed and charged with the duty of locating the county seat, to be named Urbana.

1833 — William T. Webber settled in Urbana Township. He donated twenty acres of land upon which the original Town of Urbana was located.

1834 — The first tavern was opened in Urbana. It was run by Israel Knapp.

1835 — F. L. Scott settled on the Sangamon. The trail between this settlement and Urbana was so very circuitous that he took a plow and ran a furrow to Urbana. This furrow became the line and route of the Bloomington Road, now U. S. Route 150.

1835 — A horse-powered grist mill was built here by John Brownfield. Its capacity was 15 bushels an hour.

1836 — Order was given for building our first courthouse, to be made of hewn logs 24 feet long.

1840 — The first Methodist Episcopal Church in Urbana was built. The lot cost three dollars. The church was 30 x 40 feet.

1851 — Election to incorporate held in Urbana. Voted 25 to 1 that the Town of Urbana be incorporated.

1851 — A stalk of a new plant called Chinese Sugar Cane, now known as sorghum, was brought into the newspaper office of the Urbana Union.

1852 — First Champaign County fair held in courthouse square.

1852 — First tinware was made in Urbana by W. H. Jaques.

1854 — First mail carried by railroad from Chicago to Urbana, and carrying by stage coach was abandoned.

- 1855 -- First Champaign County fairgrounds located four blocks south of the courthouse.
- 1856 -- Political meeting held at Urbana, followed by a barbecue, and although several animals were cooked, the food supply ran out. Abraham Lincoln sat at the head of the long table.
- 1856 -- Republican party born. Democrats were always here.
- 1857 -- The first Teacher's Institute met in Urbana. President T. R. Leal was then the only Republican in the township. Mr. Leal introduced blackboards into the schools.
- 1863 -- First street car was run from Urbana to Champaign. It was drawn by a pair of mules.
- 1863 -- A frost on August 27 practically ruined the corn, which rose in price from twelve cents to one dollar a bushel. B. F. Harris, then the largest cattle feeder in this area, had to buy most of the corn between here and Bloomington, for his feeding operations.
- 1867 -- "Busey Bros. & Co." Bank organized. Opened for business January 13, 1868.
- 1867 -- The first stamped envelopes were used here.
- 1869 -- First use of gas in Urbana.
- 1885 -- First use of electric lights in Urbana.
- 1888 -- Corner stone of St. Mary's Catholic Church laid. Church built through the efforts of Rev. Anthony Wagner.
- 1901 -- First electric cars run from Urbana to Danville.

"Illinois reaches back for more than one hundred fifty years in interesting annals and they are connected with religious orders; for the crucifix and not the sword was the weapon of the advance guard, that took possession of this vast prairie state."

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
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HALF CENTURY CLUB URBANA



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